1. Amendments to the Claims:

A clean version of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR § 121(c)(3). This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing an optical integrator panel ~~(17)~~, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

suspending a plurality of elongate particles ~~(21)~~ in a liquid;

applying a electric or magnetic field to the suspension ~~(19)~~ to orientate the particles with parallel longitudinal axes and random rotations about the respective parallel longitudinal axes; and

solidifying the liquid to fix the orientation of the particles, thereby forming an optical integrator panel having a homogeneous distribution of elongate particles.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising: ~~the step of~~

bringing the suspension between two parallel substrates prior to ~~the step of~~ applying the electric or magnetic field.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the substrates are coated with electrically conductive electrodes, and wherein at least one of the substrates and its respective electrode are at least partially transparent to ultraviolet light.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein ratio between thickness and length of the elongate particles is at least 1:10.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the elongate particles have reflective surfaces.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the elongate particles comprise multiple layer dielectric materials.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the elongate particles is in the range 5 nm to 1 μm and the length of the elongate particles is in the range 1μm to 50μm.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the liquid becomes a flexible transparent solid after solidification.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the liquid comprises a polymerisable liquid, and ~~the step of~~ solidifying the liquid comprises polymerising the liquid.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the liquid comprises an organic material having a solidifying temperature above 40°C, and ~~the step of~~ wherein solidifying the liquid comprises cooling the liquid.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein ~~the step of~~ polymerising the liquid comprises initiating a polymerisation reaction by exposing the polymerisable liquid to ultraviolet light or heat.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the polymerisable liquid comprises a metha(acrylate) monomer, an epoxy, a vinylether monomer or a thiolene system.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the suspension has a concentration of elongate particles by weight of less than 1%.

14. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the longitudinal axes of the elongate particles are orientated to be perpendicular to the substrates.

15. (Currently amended) An optical integrator panel ~~(17)~~ having a homogeneous distribution of elongate particles ~~(21)~~, the optical integrator panel ~~and~~ being formed according to the method of claim 1.

16. (Currently amended) An optical integrator device comprising:

an optical integrator panel ~~(17) adapted~~ configured to ~~reduce the angular dependence of contrast of~~ mix reflected or transmitted light from a liquid crystal display, increasing symmetric distribution of contrast and removing contrast inversion, the optical integrator panel ~~being for placement in the path of reflected or transmitted light emitted by the liquid crystal display~~ comprising a plurality of distributed elongate particles orientated with parallel longitudinal axes.

17. (Currently amended) The optical integrator ~~panel~~ device of claim 16 comprising:

a solid transparent panel; and

a plurality of elongate particles ~~(21)~~ homogeneously distributed in the panel, wherein the plurality of elongate particles are orientated with parallel longitudinal axes.

18. (Currently amended) The optical integrator ~~panel~~ device of claim 17, wherein the ratio between thickness and length of the elongate particles is at least 1:10.

19. (Currently amended) The optical integrator ~~panel~~ device of claim 17, wherein the surfaces of the elongate particles are reflective.

20. (Currently amended) The optical integrator ~~panel~~ device of claim 17, wherein the thickness of the elongate particles is in the range 5 nm to 1μm and the length of the elongate particles is in the range 1μm to 50μm.

21. (Currently amended) The optical integrator ~~panel~~ device of claim 17 having a concentration of elongate particles by weight of less than 1%.

22. (Currently amended) The optical integrator ~~panel~~ device of claim 17, wherein the longitudinal axes of the elongate particles are orientated to be perpendicular to the surfaces ~~(23)~~ of the optical integrator panel.

23. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display device ~~(47)~~ comprising the optical integrator ~~panel~~ device of claim 15.

24. (Currently amended) The liquid crystal display device of claim 23, wherein the optical integrator ~~panel~~ device is positioned adjacent one of two substrates ~~(55, 57)~~ between which liquid crystals ~~(49)~~ are held.

25. (Currently amended) Use of the optical integrator ~~panel~~ device ~~(17)~~ of claim 15 for reducing the angular dependence of contrast of a liquid crystal display.

26. (Currently amended) An optical integrator panel ~~(17)~~ comprising:

one of a transparent cured metha(acrylate) panel, a transparent cured epoxy panel, a transparent cured vinylether monomer panel and a transparent cured thiolene system panel; and

a plurality of elongate particles ~~(21)~~ homogeneously distributed in the panel, wherein the plurality of elongate particles are orientated with parallel longitudinal axes, a concentration of the elongate particles in the optical integrator panel being in a range of about 0.02% to about 0.03% by weight.